

REMARKS

Further to the arguments submitted with the amended dated January 22, 2003, applicants submit that Domino et al. do not teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 15 and 28. Indeed, the treatments proposed in Domino et al. do not include a method to improve the functionality of D1 and D2 dopaminergic receptors. Therefore, the relevance of Domino et al. to the present invention is insufficient to render obvious claim 15. Furthermore, Domino et al. do not teach the administration of the first component, nicotine or nicotine derivative and a second component, L-DOPA, over a long term period for treating a neurodegenerative disease and a multi-systemic atrophy in a human mammal. Thus, claim 28 is not obvious in view of Domino et al.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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